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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Room 222
Dockets
#759

March 8, 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7330-7/1700A3

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable J. J. Pickle
House of Representatives
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pickle:

This is in reply to your letters of February 11-18, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituents' concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Your constituents' letters will be included in the record of the proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Shiben
Chief, Land Mobile & Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures

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List ABCDE

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PKB
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COMMITTEES:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT
HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4310

February 17, 1993

Mr. Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I recently received the enclosed letters from Mr. Austin Ayotte and Mr. and Mrs. William Pederson concerning the effect the proposed rulemaking (Docket 92-235) regarding Private Land Mobile Radio services may have on their use of radio-controlled aircraft.

I sure would appreciate your considering these concerns about this proposed rule before the final rulemaking is made. I know each constituent would appreciate knowing if this proposed rulemaking will indeed affect the radio frequencies available for radio-controlled aircraft. Please forward me a copy of your response.

Thank you for your close attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

J. J. PICKLE

JJP:zms
Enclosure

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THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

Austin Ayotte
11400 Chapel Lane
Austin, TX 78748

1993

February 5, 1993

The Honorable Jack Pickle
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Pickle:

I am concerned about the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. The proceeding is P.R. Docket 92.235 which, if adopted, will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

I am one of over two million radio control enthusiasts who not only derive much enjoyment out of building and flying radio controlled airplanes, but who support a large commercial industry that provides employment for thousands of people.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies; however, our R.C. frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower band widths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the R.C. frequencies and cause interference with the R.C. operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly R.C. airplanes, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of operators and bystanders. Many of our safety precautions involve careful coordination and use of the R.C. frequencies. If the number of frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC those remaining will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly reduced.

Many of our airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30-40 pounds. While the models are expensive, (I have about $2500.00 invested in one I am building now) more to the point, they are capable of causing considerable property damage, serious injury or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the aircraft. We often fly at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators

participate and many hundreds of spectators are drawn to these events. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

A land mobile operator could come to one of these meets as a spectator and have a radio on one of the new frequencies, and unknowingly use his transmitter while an R.C. pilot was flying on the adjacent frequency and could cause the R.C. plane to go out of control because of radio interference. One such frequency is model channel 14 on 72.070 MHz. The new mobile frequency would be 72.0725 MHz which is only .0025 MHz away from the channel 14 R.C. frequency. With a power output of four times the R.C. transmitter, the mobile unit would over power the R.C. unit and cause the R.C. operator to lose control of this airplane with disastrous results. These new frequencies bracket 31 R.C. frequencies and the technical specifications for the new equipment allows a legal frequency tolerance which would place their signal directly on the R.C. signal!

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my hobby by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposal for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Austin Ayotte
COL. USAF RET

cc: FCC 1919 M. St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Mr. Gary Pederson
[illegible]
Austin, Texas [illegible]

FEB 17 1993

February 6, 1993

The Honorable Jake Pickle
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Pickle,

I am an active member of an Austin radio control airplane club appropriately named the Austin Aero Modelers. This club, which at this point has over 85 members, has been actively participating in Austin activities for over 20 years.

I am extremely concerned with the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of radio frequencies currently assigned for model aviation use, and significantly increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either one interfering with the other.

Now the FCC has proposed creating additional land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be tremendously reduced.

Please understand that many radio control model airplanes have wing spans of 10 feet in width and may weigh as much as 40 pounds. My personal models typically have wingspans of 5 - 6 feet and fly in excess of 120 mile per hour. Clearly a lack of control caused by radio interference could be quite dangerous. As you can imagine, the models are not only very expensive to build but rest assured can cause significant property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the pilot to lose control for even a split second. There are a large number of clubs in Austin as well as all around the state of Texas. Most of these clubs have organized contests and events to benefit the club and/or the community on an annual or semi-annual basis. Our club specifically puts on large demonstrations for the Austin Aquafest as well as numerous shows for our Austin adopted school, Langfort Elementary. Understanding this, it is critical that we have the full use our currently prescribed radio frequencies to insure a safe flying environment. Many of these activities involve several hundreds if not thousands of spectators. We must keep this safe for them if not for the pilots as well.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operation conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to several hundred thousands of individuals (please check the latest Academy of Model Aeronautics roster), like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry. Personally I can not tell you how many individuals I have trained, but I can tell you that they ranged from young elementary children to very elderly retired individuals who derive great joy and excitement from flying models. I would sincerely hate to see these individuals lose this pleasure as a result of radio interference caused by this new proposal.

Please also understand that I am not writing this note as a layman, I am an experienced engineer for the largest mobile communication supplier in the world. I understand the need for additional mobile channels, but to further reduce the available frequencies in the 72 - 76 MHz band is not sensible. As you may or may not recall, this same band has already been dissected earlier in 1991 thus forcing each active modeler to purchase new receivers and transmitter upgrades totaling more than $100 per radio system. Again, I personally put well more than $1000 into upgrades in this case.

In closing, I ask you to help me and the entire sport of model aviation to continue the safe enjoyment of our pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 - 76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Pederson